

Joint Service Light Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Reconnaissance System (JSLNBCRS)

The Joint Service Light Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance System (JSLNBCRS) is a mobile reconnaissance system intended to detect and report Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) hazards on the battlefield. The JSLNBCRS consists of a Base Vehicle equipped with hand-held and vehicle-mounted NBC detection and identification equipment. Detectors selected for use on the JSLNBCRS provide the capability to detect, sample, and identify known NBC agents, as well as Toxic Industrial Materials. Communications equipment is required to transmit analog and digital messages and NBC contamination warnings. A system for marking contaminated areas is also included. Local meteorological and accurate navigation information is provided by onboard meteorological and global positioning systems. Two base vehicles are planned: the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) for the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps and the Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) for the Marine Corps.

JSLNBCRS is intended to provide new sensors and information dissemination systems to detect chemical or biological attacks at extended ranges and provide warning to affected units. JSLNBCRS will be employed in forward combat areas and integrated into the overall reconnaissance and surveillance effort to support combat operations. It will also be employed in rear areas to monitor main supply routes, logistics bases, airfields, ports, and key command and control centers for NBC hazards.

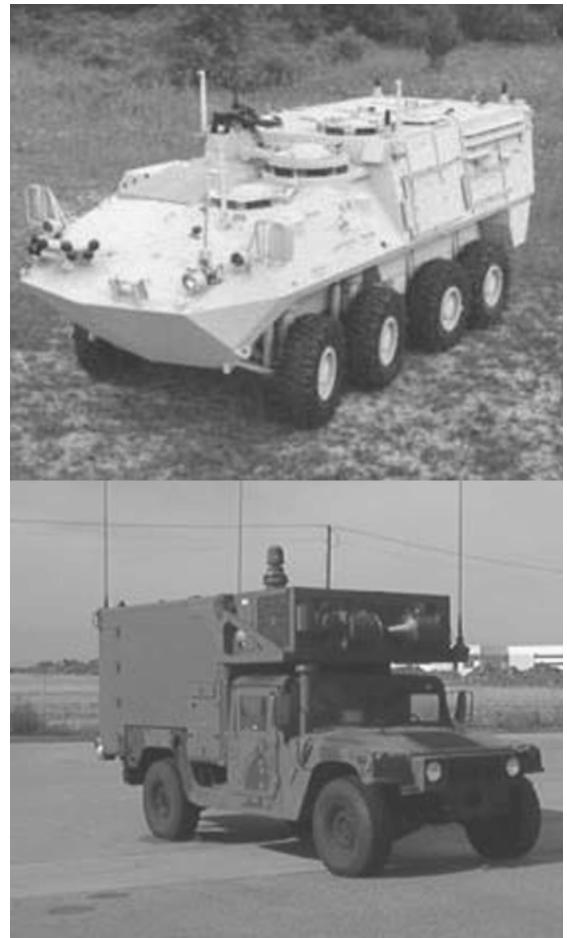
TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

The JSLNBCRS Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP) was approved by DOT&E in June 2001.

Developmental Test (DT) II was conducted for the HMMWV variant from May 2002 to August 2002. A Limited User Test (LUT) followed DT II during September and November 2002, which is intended to support the Low-Rate Initial Production decision in January-February 2003. The HMMWV LUT tested the operational effectiveness and suitability of JSLNBCRS performing its reconnaissance and security missions in a United States Marine Corps ground scenario and a United States Air Force airbase scenario. A DT III of the Low-Rate Initial Production units will follow the LUT to address operational issues found in testing before the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E).

Two production representative LAV vehicles, which have been refurbished, will be integrated with the common JSLNBCRS mission suite from October 2002 to April 2003. DT I for the LAV system is planned from June to July 2003 and precedes the IOT&E.

A common HMMWV-LAV IOT&E will be conducted in FY04 with Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force participation.



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DOD PROGRAMS

TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

The results of DT II HMMWV testing were reviewed, in accordance with the TEMP, prior to the start of the LUT in September 2002. The Army determined that JSLNBCRS had demonstrated system integration of the sensor suite prior to the start of the LUT. The TEMP planned for the use of prototype sensors for the LUT. The data from this test is still being analyzed.

Because the final full-rate production contract will be a full and open competition, the system that will be tested in IOT&E might not be the system that is fielded. A Follow-On Test and Evaluation will be conducted for the full-rate production system, if it is different than the system used for IOT&E.

During the past year the Army has debated its participation in the JSLNBCRS program and the most effective mix of light HMMWV and armored NBC reconnaissance systems to support light, rear, and heavy forces. The Army withdrew from participation in the LUT, but now the Army intends to procure the HMMWV JSLNBCRS system, although the final mix of light and armored systems is under review. The uncertainties of Army participation in the program and deviations from the TEMP might force an additional operational assessment excursion prior to the IOT&E using the Army's Force Battle Command Brigade and Below Command and Control System.